

JC1

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, Judicial Nominee, **SUMMER M.M. KUPAU-ODO**, for a term to expire in 6 years.



Testimony of the
HAWAII STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
relating to the nomination of

**Summer M.M. Kupau-Odo
District Court of the First Circuit (JC1)**

TO: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Howard K.K. Luke
President, Hawaii State Bar Association

Hearing: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 at 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 224
State Capitol

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association (HSBA) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo for the position of Judge for the District Court of the First Circuit.

The HSBA Board of Directors followed its multi-step process to inform the confirming authority of its findings on this appointment.

- Notification to the nominee of the HSBA appointment review process, which includes a questionnaire requesting educational credentials, legal and other professional work experiences, personal references; a resume; a copy of the Judicial Selection Commission application; a form authorizing disclosure from the Office of Disciplinary Counsel of any disciplinary action; and an interview with the HSBA Board of Directors.
- Notification via electronic transmission to the HSBA membership of the appointment and a request for comments on the nominee.
- Appointment of a three-person review subcommittee of HSBA Board members by the President which serves as a neutral fact-finding body to: review documentation submitted by the nominee, contact references submitted by the nominee, review comments received from the HSBA membership, and conduct follow-up member contact for clarification, if necessary, for presentation to the HSBA Board.
- Submittal of a report by the three-person review subcommittee to the President, and subsequently to the entire Board.

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- Meeting of the President, the Executive Director, and the nominee prior to the scheduled interview of the nominee by the Board.
- Interview of the nominee by the HSBA Board.
- Deliberation of the HSBA Board and a determination of qualified or unqualified.
- Submittal of the HSBA Board's recommendation to the confirming authority.

The HSBA President and the Executive Director met with Ms. Summer Kupau-Odo on October 18th to discuss the subcommittee's findings. On October 19th, Ms. Kupau-Odo was interviewed by the HSBA Board of Directors in executive session.

Documentation submitted by Ms. Kupau-Odo was reviewed and the references listed were contacted for their personal opinions and observations. The comments and letters received from HSBA members reflected an affirmation of Ms. Kupau-Odo in all categories of the HSBA criteria which include:

- Integrity
- Diligence
- Legal knowledge and ability
- Professional experience
- Temperament
- Financial responsibility
- Public service
- Health
- Ability to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of the position

Ms. Kupau-Odo has distinguished herself in every one of the varied areas of legal scholarship and law practice in which she has been involved. She was a Dean's Scholar, received numerous academic awards and recognitions for her legal writing and scholarship, and earned the top grades in her law school class in at least four subjects. She was an editor and author of the University of Hawaii Law Review and a team captain of her National Moot Court Competition team. She was selected to serve as a research assistant to a law school professor. She took part in several other activities that benefited the faculty and student body. At her graduation, she was honored as a commencement speaker for her law school class.

Following admission to the bar, Ms. Kupau-Odo secured a law clerkship with Hawaii Supreme Court Associate Justice Simeon Acoba. She then embarked on several years of law practice focusing on service to the public and to environmental concerns. She served as a trial and appellate attorney with the Office of the Public Defender for almost eight years, gaining both jury trial and appellate litigation experience in all jurisdictional levels of our state courts. When she decided to expand the scope of her legal experience, she secured employment with Earthjustice, where she was lead or associate counsel in landmark cases in both the state and federal courts. Following her years with Earthjustice, Ms. Kupau-Odo brought her considerable legal talents to the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation, where she was the lead drafter of briefs in a complicated, highly publicized probate matter where issues of first impression were argued successfully before the Probate Court.

Ms. Kupau-Odo's formative years in Lahaina, Maui helped develop her interest in public service, where, prior to her enrollment in law school, she served as a substitute and full-time elementary school teacher and high school counselor on Maui.

Ms. Kupau-Odo has the legal ability, ethical awareness, and judicial temperament as she assumes her District Court assignment and workload. Her professional experience serving all sectors of the community makes her a perfect candidate to preside over cases in the Honolulu District Court. Otherwise known as "*The People's Court*," the District Court is where compassion, empathy, and clear, down-to-earth communication skills are critical components to the fair and equal dispensation of justice.

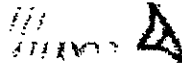
After the interview of the nominee, which included dialogue and questioning relating to her background, experiences, and reasons for pursuing the position of Judge for the District Court of the First Circuit, the Board of the Hawaii State Bar Association found Ms. Summer Kupau-Odo to be **QUALIFIED** for the position of Judge for the District Court of the First Circuit.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments for consideration during the deliberations and decision making of our Committee.



NATIVE HAWAIIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Aloha mai no, Aloha aku
Where love is given, love should be
returned.



October 23, 2018

Senate Committee on Judiciary (JDC)
c/o Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 219
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: *JC 1, Testimony in Support of Nomination of
Summer Kupau-Odo for Judge, District Court of the
First Circuit (Island of O'ahu)*

Hearing: *Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 10:30 a.m., Conf. Room 224*

To: *The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair; The Honorable Karl Rhoads,
Vice-Chair; and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary*

The Native Hawaiian Bar Association (NHBA) is an association of lawyers, judges and other legal professionals of Hawaiian ancestry that seeks to promote excellence, unity, cooperation, education, and the exchange of ideas among its members, and in the larger community. The Board of Directors of the NHBA recommends, without reservation, the nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo to fill the judicial vacancy created in the District Court of the First Circuit.

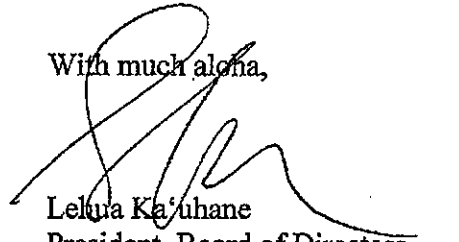
Ms. Kupau-Odo is a 2004 graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law. Upon graduation, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable Simeon R. Acoba, Jr., Associate Justice of the Hawai'i Supreme Court. Ms. Kupau-Odo has extensive trial and appellate experience as a litigator with both the Public Defender's office and Earthjustice. And she most recently joined the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation as its Litigation Director to ensure that non-profit organization's continued provision of top-quality, low-cost legal representation to hundreds of clients annually. Her experience is diverse and extensive, steeped in work serving the public interest and reflecting her commitment to civil rights, social justice, and the protection of Hawai'i's public trust resources. Indeed, the Hawai'i Supreme Court's recent unanimous decision, subjecting commercial aquarium fish collection to environmental review, attests to the quality and effectiveness of her legal advocacy.

Senate Committee on Judiciary
October 23, 2018
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Ms. Kupau-Odo's legal training, gender, experience and temperament would be a welcome addition to the judiciary. Her calm and measured demeanor, and her reputation for fair-minded advocacy were honed during her distinguished career advocating for the underserved and promoting equal access to justice. Ms. Kupau-Odo exemplifies the highest level of integrity and competence necessary to discharge the duties of a sound and independent jurist.

The Board of Directors strongly recommends Ms. Kupau-Odo to fill the judicial vacancy created in the District Court of the First Circuit. As an attorney of Hawaiian ancestry, she will greatly contribute to the diversification of, and offer a much-needed perspective to, the judiciary and the communities that it serves. She will be an outstanding trial judge, as she has been an outstanding litigator and contributor to the civic life of Hawai'i's community. We support Ms. Ms. Kupau-Odo's application without reservation.

With much aloha,



Lelua Ka'uhane
President, Board of Directors
Native Hawaiian Bar Association

October, 19, 2018

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: JC 1, Testimony in Support of the Nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo
Hearing: Wednesday, October 24, 2018; 10:30 a.m., Conference Room 224

Dear Senators Taniguchi, Rhoads, and committee members:

This letter is written on behalf of Mrs. Kupau-Odo (Summer). Summer served as my law clerk from September 2004 to September 2005, during my term as associate justice at the Hawai'i supreme court. She is an excellent writer and oral advocate and served as comments editor for the Richardson School's Law Review and was Team captain/member for the School's National Law Environmental Law Moot Court team in 2003 and 2004. Summer's class chose her to be the graduation speaker and she graduated cum laude from the Law School. Her superior research, writing and speaking abilities indicate that her decisions as a judge would be well reasoned and that she would communicate effectively.

Her court experience is extensive and is a solid basis for service as a trial judge. She spent eight years at the Public Defenders' Office where she did jury and bench trials, drafted briefs in 27 appeals rendering oral argument in 10 of them, nine before the Hawaii supreme court. In her present position with the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation as Co-litigation Director and Staff attorney, I believe she screens cases for litigation and helps to guide other attorneys on trying cases. While with the Earth Justice office she litigated cases before the Hawaii courts and U.S. District courts and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

I personally worked with Summer when she served as one of my law clerks. Her knowledge of the law, her research ability and her commitment to her tasks are exceptional. I observed her in court during her several arguments before the Hawai'i Supreme Court and her conduct before the court and her advocacy in her briefs were always respectful and courteous and reflected her adherence to professionalism. Her knowledge of the court room, the rules of evidence, the body of law at hand, and experience in State and Federal practice would be difficult to match.

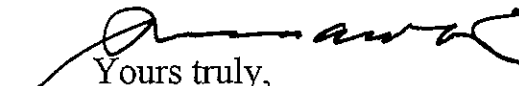
She is honest, straightforward, and trustworthy. From my contact with her I believe she is considerate of others and would be fair to all and would treat everyone equally. She was raised on Maui and is a graduate of the public schools. She and her husband have a daughter and so Summer is a working mother.

She is cooperative and amiable. She is humble and her demeanor is always pleasant. It is easy to be feel comfortable in her company. She has many acquaintances who are supportive of her and can attest to her commitment to the welfare of Hawai'i and its many peoples.

I have no doubt she would be an asset to the judiciary and as a State official. She is aware of the significant role a judge can have in the community and of the importance of relating to people who are in varied situations and circumstances. She would have a meaningful impact on the community at large. She is not only an able legal professional but an exceptional person.

She has my highest recommendation.

Thank you for considering these comments.


Yours truly,
/s/ Simeon R. Acoba, Jr.

**Testimony of John M. Tonaki,
State Public Defender to the Senate Committee on Judiciary**

October 24, 2018

JC1: Nomination of Summer M.M. Kupau-Odo to the District Court of the First Circuit

Chair Taniguchi and Committee Members:

It is a privilege for me to support Summer M.M. Kupau-Odo's nomination to be a judge of the District Court in the First Circuit. She is an exceptional nominee who has demonstrated her qualities as a knowledgeable and flexible attorney. Summer served as a Deputy Public Defender from 2005 through 2013. She distinguished herself by trying cases at both the district and circuit court levels and by specializing in appeals to both the Hawaii Supreme Court and the Hawaii Intermediate Court of Appeals. Prior to joining the Public Defender, Summer served as a law clerk for the Honorable Simeon Acoba, retired associate justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Summer left the Public Defender's office to work for EarthJustice and, subsequently, the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation. Through these career moves, she has demonstrated a commitment to service of the underprivileged and for the well-being of our community. Summer has always eschewed great financial reward for public interest advocacy. She is a rare individual who displays strong compassion together with social commitment and exceptional intellectual ability. She is a tireless advocate for justice on behalf of every person she has represented.

We would be fortunate to have more judges with Summer's commitment and background. I fully support Summer's nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard on this matter.

STATE OF HAWAI‘I
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

1130 N. NIMITZ HIGHWAY, SUITE A-254, HONOLULU, HAWAI‘I 96817
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-2200, FACSIMILE: (808) 586-2222

JOHN M. TONAKI
PUBLIC DEFENDER

JAMES S. TABE
ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER

October 23, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
417 S. King Street
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

Re: JC 1, Testimony in Support of Nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo

Dear Chairman Taniguchi and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment upon Ms. Summer Kupau-Odo, a judicial nominee for the District Court of the First Circuit.

I was recently promoted to the Assistant Public Defender (more commonly referred to as the Chief Deputy) of the Office of the Public Defender. Prior to my promotion, I had been the supervising attorney for the Appellate Division of the Office of the Public Defender. I have known Ms. Kupau-Odo since 2005 when she joined the Office of the Public Defender and I had the opportunity to supervise and work closely with Ms. Kupau-Odo when she was assigned to the appellate division.

When Ms. Kupau-Odo joined the Office of the Public Defender, I was immediately impressed with not only her intelligence and advocacy skills, but also with her work ethic and her commitment to and her compassion for the people we represented. Ms. Kupau-Odo’s contributions as an appellate attorney led to several precedent-setting Hawai‘i Supreme Court cases.

Ms. Kupau-Odo is highly qualified to serve on the district court bench. She holds herself to high standards of preparation and performance. She possesses a strong work ethic, and her knowledge of the law is quite impressive. She has the intellect and the ability to grasp complex legal issues and communicate her ideas and arguments in a thoughtful, eloquent and persuasive manner. When she was working at the Office of the Public Defender, the attorneys in the office, including myself, routinely sought her counsel and judgment on legal matters, and she was always generous with her time to assist others.

Although it has been a number of years since I regularly appeared before the District Court, I am still familiar with the rigors and the demands placed upon the district court and district family court judges. The judges must not only be intelligent, fair, and professional, but they must also be hardworking, efficient, and organized to deal with the voluminous and demanding workload. Furthermore, because district court judges touch the most people in the community on a daily basis and has the broadest reach and impact upon the public, the judicial applicant must be well-rounded and have the judicial demeanor, character, and sensitivity to be successful. Ms. Kupau-Odo certainly possesses such qualities. I have no doubt that she will treat those who appear before her with dignity, patience, respect and compassion.

As long as I have known Ms. Kupau-Odo, she has practiced law with competence, zealously, compassion, integrity and humility. She has demonstrated that she possesses the ability, the experience and the qualities to be a district court judge. Ms. Kupau-Odo will certainly be an asset to the judiciary and I am proud to support her for a seat on the District Court of the First Circuit.

Sincerely,

/s/ James S. Tabe

James S. Tabe



SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Attn: Chair Brian T. Taniguchi and Vice-Chair Karl Rhoads

Re: JC 1, Testimony in Strong Support of Confirmation of Summer M.M. Kupau-Odo to District Court of the First Circuit (Island of O'ahu)

Hearing: October 24, 2018, 10:30 a.m., Conference Room 224

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Vice-Chair Rhoads,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on Summer Kupau-Odo, the judicial nominee for the District Court of the First Circuit (Island of O'ahu). My name is Paul Achitoff, and I am the Managing Attorney for the Mid-Pacific Office of Earthjustice, the nation's leading public interest environmental law firm. I submit this testimony on behalf of the office and its members. Based on our office's experience working with Ms. Kupau-Odo, we *strongly support* her nomination.

Ms. Kupau-Odo joined our office after serving for eight years as a public defender. She rose to the challenge of transitioning to a new area of law and was able to quickly get up to speed on complex environmental laws, including Hawai'i state water law and the federal Clean Water Act.

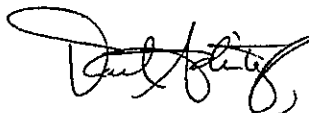
Ms. Kupau-Odo's legal experience and skills shone through in her written and oral advocacy work. During her relatively short time at Earthjustice, she achieved several important victories for our organization and the public interest, and proved to be an effective and prudent officer of the law.

Ms. Kupau-Odo also excelled at working directly with our clients, many of whom were unfamiliar with the legal system or came from historically marginalized groups, such as Native Hawaiian communities. Through her work, Ms. Kupau-Odo demonstrated her commitment to social justice and access to justice in Hawai'i.

Within the office, Ms. Kupau-Odo was a team player, showed empathy for others, and consistently demonstrated the calm and balanced demeanor we would expect from the bench. She was a pleasure to work with, and she is truly missed among our staff of five attorneys and two administrative professionals.

Based on all of these qualities, we believe Ms. Kupau-Odo possesses the skills, temperament, and commitment necessary to fairly and justly administer the law in Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul H. Achitoff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "A".


Paul H. Achitoff, on behalf of
The Earthjustice Mid-Pacific Office



Opportunities to Begin Again

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NONIMATION OF SUMMER KUPAU-ODO

TO: Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Greg Payton, CEO Mental Health Kokua 

Hearing: Senate Confirmation Hearing
Nomination to serve as District Court Judge of the First Circuit

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of Summer Kupau-Odo as District Court Judge of the First Circuit. I am Greg Payton, CEO of Mental Health Kokua (MHK).

Mental Health Kokua was established in 1973 as "The House," and MHK is the oldest non-profit mental health rehabilitation service provider in Hawaii. MHK's Mission: Through specially designed services and settings, Mental Health Kokua assists people with mental health and related challenges, to achieve optimum recovery and functioning in the community. MHK also participates with a continuum of non-profit providers to help end homeless in Hawaii for adults with mental illnesses.

Summer Kupau-Odo serves on the Board of Directors of Mental Health Kokua (MHK). She brings to MHK's Board a wealth of legal and community service expertise. She is commended for her commitment to native Hawaiian issues, as well as her community advocacy including: serving as a Board Member for Advocates for Public Interest Law; a Board Member for the Student Bar Association; and a Student Representative for University Of Hawaii Law School Admissions Committee. At Mental Health Kokua we are thankful to receive her insight and advocacy for helping to expand the housing inventory to end homelessness for adults with mental illness, advocacy for accessible/affordable housing, and understanding the civil commitment needs for those vulnerable people we serve who are gravely disabled, living in places not fit for human habitation.

On behalf of Mental Health Kokua, we support without reservation the nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo to serve as District Court Judge of the First Circuit. Please contact me at (808) 529-4554 or gpayton@mhkhawaii.org if you have any questions.



A non-profit organization
Main Administrative Office
1221 Kapiolani Boulevard, #345
Honolulu, HI 96814

Phone (808) 737-2523 Fax (808) 734-1208



October 16, 2018

Re: Summer M.M. Kupau-Odo
Appointee for Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit

I am writing this letter in support of District Court Judge Appointee, Summer M.M. Kupau-Odo. I have known Summer for a period of more than ten (10) years and have been blessed with the opportunity to work along-side her when she was an attorney at the Office of the Public Defender on the island of Oahu. I can say whole-heartedly that Summer was a very dedicated and experienced trial attorney during her tenure at the Office. I had many opportunities to work along-side her in Court and always admired her ability to maintain poise and demeanor without sacrificing her advocacy for her clients in any fashion. In addition, Summer excelled as an appellate lawyer when she worked exclusively in the appeals division at our office. In summary, I believe Summer would make an excellent District Court Judge and I would look forward to having the opportunity of appearing before her in the future.

Sincerely,

/S/ Alan J.T. Komagome

Alan J.T. Komagome
Deputy Public Defender

From the desk of:
J Grant Giventer, Esq. Bar #7958
2575 Kuhio Ave. Apt 402
Honolulu, HI 96815

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

October 16, 2018

Re: JC 1, Testimony in Support of Nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo
Hearing: Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 10:30 am Conference Room 224

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Senate Committee on Judiciary:

Please accept this character reference letter on behalf of my friend and former legal colleague, Summer M.M. Kupau-Odo.

I have known Summer for more than 10 years. We practiced law together at the Office of the Public Defender. Summer is an exceptional attorney and a zealous advocate. She is a scholarly individual. She is also practical, persuasive, and always open minded. Her legal analysis is informed and sound.

Beyond her legal/professional skill set, Summer is very personable. She is trustworthy, grounded, and well rounded. If Summer were given the opportunity to become a judge, I know she would utilize an informed, thoughtful and consistent approach.

I have total confidence in her ability to make difficult decisions that affect people's lives and our community at large. I would trust her to make important decisions that would critically affect my own family. I whole heartedly support Summer's judicial appointment to the District Court of the First Circuit.

Sincerely,

J. Grant Giventer
Deputy Public Defender IV (2004 - present)
Board Member, Waikiki Neighborhood Board (2017 - present)
Board Member, Liholiho Elementary School PTA (2016 - 2018)

Kylie W. Wager Cruz

P.O. Box 4525 Honolulu, HI 96812 | kylie110@gmail.com

October 17, 2018

Via Hawai'i State Legislature website

Office of Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary (JDC)
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 219
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

To: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair; The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair; and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: JC 1, Testimony in Strong Support of Nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo

Hearing: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 10:30 a.m., Conference Room 224

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on Summer M.M. Kupau-Odo, the judicial nominee for the District Court of the First Circuit (Island of O'ahu). I worked as an associate attorney with Summer for three years at Earthjustice, a non-profit, public interest, environmental law firm. I also co-taught an environmental litigation course with Summer at the William S. Richardson School of Law last fall. Based on my professional and personal experiences working with Summer, it is with great pleasure that I submit this testimony in *strong support* of my colleague and friend.

Shortly after I began working at Earthjustice, I asked Summer how she was finding the transition from "defense" as a public defender to "prosecution" as a public interest environmental attorney. Summer responded that in many ways, the work was the same; she welcomed the shift partly so that she could continue representing communities that otherwise would not have a voice in the courtroom, folks with fewer resources and less familiarity with the law.

Consistent with my early impressions of Summer, her commitment to equity and access to justice was unmistakable in her work at Earthjustice. This made her an effective legal advocate as well as a trusted and respected advisor to her clients, many of whom were Native Hawaiian, from rural communities throughout the islands, or members of small grassroots

Letter in Strong Support of Summer Kupau-Odo
October 17, 2018
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organizations. Summer thrived in bridging the gap between everyday people and the legal system.

Summer is also dedicated to mentoring and training Hawai'i's next generation of legal advocates. In my experience teaching with Summer, I was very impressed with her ability to explain complex legal concepts clearly and effectively and provide thoughtful, well-reasoned responses to questions. Summer was always willing to make herself available outside of class time, treated students fairly and with respect, and emphasized skills and lessons that students don't normally learn in the classroom, like case management and organization, working with clients and experts, and the importance of jealously guarding one's reputation.

As a young lawyer myself, I admire Summer's advocacy skills and style. She remains calm and composed, yet firm, in adversarial settings, and makes people feel comfortable. She speaks from knowledge and experience, and doesn't guess. She is thoughtful and thorough in her research, and is always well-prepared. Summer was also an indispensable part of our small office of five attorneys and two support staff. She took time to ask about our families, showed appreciation and respect for others, and offered to step in and help out when needed.

Based on all of these qualities, I believe Summer's professional background, temperament, and commitment to Hawai'i would make her an ideal addition to the bench, and that confirming Summer would be an invaluable investment in Hawai'i's future. Thank you for considering my comments, and please don't hesitate to contact me should you have further questions.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kylie W. Wager Cruz', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kylie W. Wager Cruz

Jeffrey Ng
1285 Malawaina Street
Hilo, HI 96720
(808) 778-3924

October 17, 2018

To: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: JC 1, Testimony in Support of Nomination of Summer M.M. Kupau-Odo

Hearing: Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 10:30 am, Conference Room 224

Dear Senator Taniguchi, Senator Rhoads, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I am submitting this letter in STRONG SUPPORT of Summer M.M. Kupau-Odo to serve as a District Court Judge of the First Circuit. I have known Summer for approximately twelve years. We worked together at the Office of the Public Defender in Honolulu. She was a tremendous asset to our office and became a skilled trial lawyer. She was a great influence and role model for many of the attorneys at the office. She represented our clients compassionately, diligently, and enthusiastically.

Over the years, I have also gotten to know and spend time with Summer, her husband Donovan, and their young son Koali. I know she is committed and dedicated to her family. Summer and Donovan are also die-hard University of Hawaii sports fans, especially football and baseball. On most fall Saturdays, you will find them at Aloha Stadium for UH home games, no matter if the football team is winning or losing.

As a deputy public defender for the past sixteen years in Honolulu and now in Hilo, I have appeared before many district and circuit court judges. Based upon this experience, I strongly believe that Summer possesses the knowledge, demeanor, and other necessary qualifications to excel as a district court judge.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,


Jeffrey Ng

*To: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair; The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair;
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary*

Re: JC 1, Testimony in Support of Nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo

Hearing: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 10:30 a.m., Conference Room 224

I was so happy and proud to see my former senior class president (Lahainaluna Class of 1995) **Summer M. Kupau-Odo** on a judicial nomination to serve as District Court Judge for the First Circuit Court. I strongly encourage the Senate to confirm her nomination.

I have known Summer and her twin sister Marlene, and their younger brother Jonathan since their high school years as outstanding students at Lahainaluna High School. I served as the student council advisor and student activities coordinator (retired in 2014 after 30 years of service in the DOE). After high school, we continued to stay in touch as best as possible. Summer always had the enthusiasm to pursue her career goal and I watched her do well in all her academic pursuits at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa as well as through her field experiences as an attorney.

Summer has always displayed a healthy and mature attitude throughout her high school career. She was dependable, diligent, honest, loyal, and very charismatic with all that she was involved. There was no doubt in my mind that Summer would be a role model and well respected by her peers. She was meticulous with her studies and maintained a consistently excellent grade point average.

Her academic success and her persistence in her scholastic challenges were indicative of how successful she would be at the collegiate level. She had a clear vision of what her career goals were and she has developed into an articulate and capable lawyer. I am so proud of her.

She is a team player and I'm positive that she will be able to work well with the First Circuit Courts and its colleagues. Her current experiences have been solid stepping stones that present her as a fair and honest person. She does her research on cases thoroughly and efficiently. Her oral presentations and dissertations have been sharp, vivid, and eloquently presented in the courts. She gets the job done, and done well.

She will continue to be a role model for future students, especially for young women interested in the judicial system. As a loving mother and wife, with a husband who is very supportive of her, Summer balances excellent work ethics while also raising a family and engaging herself with community service.

I strongly encourage you to accept the nomination of **Summer Kupau-Odo** as a District Judge for the First Circuit. Feel free to contact me if I can of any further assistance.

Mahalo,


Art Fillazar

October 18, 2018

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF SUMMER KUPAU-ODO

HEARING: Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

Dear Senator Brian Taniguchi,

Please accept my written testimony in support of the nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo to District Court of the First Circuit.

I have known Summer Kupau-Odo for approximately 13 years. She is married to my close friend Donovan Odo. Although I do not have any professional experience with Summer, I would like to offer my testimony on her family and personal life from my own observations and experiences. I greatly admire Summer on a great many levels. Her warm heartedness and a genuine kindness made my family and I instantly accept her. My children call her Aunty, as is the customary in Hawaii, but it goes beyond that. They have come to love and trust "Aunty Sum" even though she is not a blood relative. I found it remarkable that even though she was in a casual-family type setting she was able to use her skills as a lawyer to resolve disputes between children. No doubt my kids and those around were surprised at the legalistic type of questions that were sent their way in order to come to a mutually beneficial agreement. In other words, "Aunty Sum wen' diffuse da situation to keep da Keiki from making anykine."

I admire Summer's commitment to her job and the beliefs that go along with it. Her defense of the environment, especially on Maui, opened my eyes to the underlying threats that our ecosystems face. It was through her involvement with preserving Olowalu and returning water to the systems on Maui that I came to realize that without people fighting for what is right, our islands would continue to be exploited for profit. Maui holds a special place in Summer's heart as that is where she grew up and is a graduate of Lahainaluna. All of her immediate family still live in Lahaina and she makes every effort to visit and take care of them. I had the special privilege of spending time with them on several occasions, and I can say that they all live the spirit of "Ohana" and it extends far beyond the boundaries of their own household. It is this ingrained ideal of "Ohana" that Summer has personified and applies to her life and practice.

In our society we are quick to condemn by popular opinion and our own moral beliefs. I must admit that my conservative beliefs swayed my opinion toward the right. While Summer was still a public defender she engaged me in constructive conversation about the criminal justice system and the value of defending those that are accused of a crime. Her solid points made me understand the process and how the notion of "innocent until proven guilty" is the foundation that the criminal justice system is based upon. I am

October 19, 2018

RE: Testimony in Support of Summer Kupau-Odo

Aloha members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am writing in support of Summer Kupau-Odo's appointment to the District Court of the First Circuit.

I first met Ms. Kupau-Odo when she was still a law student. I was a young associate at Damon Key Leong Kupchak Hastert, and I had been invited back to the law school by a former professor to help judge the national moot court competition for NAPABA (the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association), which was being hosted by UH that year.

The details of the legal dispute at the heart of the competition escape me, but I still remember how impressed I was by Ms. Kupau-Odo after I watched her and her teammate compete. They were, by far, the best future appellate advocates at the event. Ms. Kupau-Odo was prepared, diligent, professional, well-spoken, and passionate. She knew the caselaw inside-and-out and she made well-reasoned legal arguments that disemboweled her competitors' cases and parried their counter-arguments with aplomb. I was so impressed that I stuck around for the semi-final and final competitions, even though I was no longer judging, just to watch her and her teammate compete. After they won the competition, I pulled them aside to compliment them on the amazing performances and ask them both to apply for our summer associate program.

Ms. Kupau-Odo and I have been friends ever since, and although she never came to work with me at Damon Key, some years later I came to work with her at the Office of the Public Defender, where I had the pleasure of watching her grow to be the incredible lawyer that I knew she would become from the first day we met. I know she will be an exceptional judge, and I firmly believe that someday she should sit on the Hawaii Supreme Court.

As a deputy public defender, I spent around 5 years working alongside Ms. Kupau-Odo. As her co-worker, I had many opportunities to observe her as she defended her clients in trial and at sentencing hearings, prepared and drafted legal motions and memoranda, and counseled clients at the office, in OCCC, and in the district and circuit court cell blocks. She always acted ethically and professionally in her dealings with the Judges, the court staff, her clients, the Prosecutors, her co-workers, and everyone else she encountered. She has a keen legal mind, a warm sense of humor, and she showed a great deal of patience towards our occasionally disgruntled or hostile clients, while still maintaining client control.

When I had questions during my early years as a public defender in district court, juvenile court, family criminal court, and finally circuit court about the law, trial strategy, or just how to deal with my most difficult clients, Ms. Kupau-Odo was often the first person I would turn to for help. Frankly, she is brilliant. I have watched her prepare for several oral arguments before the Hawaii Supreme Court and been astounded by her intelligence and her ability to wrestle complex legal issues into focus. She still got calls from me with legal questions for years after she left our office to work for EarthJustice.

Ms. Kupau-Odo is a formidable advocate, who loves the law and practices it at a very high level, but she is also completely down to earth. I have seen her communicate with and relate to clients who are confused, upset, angry, scared, and/or suffering from withdrawal

symptoms or severe mental illnesses as if she were a beloved sister or aunty, calmly and clearly explaining their rights and options in a way they could understand, regardless of their challenges.

Based on my years of knowing her and working with her, I believe Ms. Kupau-Odo cares deeply about the health and welfare of those in our community that are most in crisis; the homeless, the hungry, the poor, the victimized, the scared, and the mentally ill. She also cares deeply about our local values and our natural resources, and she has dedicated her life and much of her career to preserving and nurturing what is Pono.

If she is assigned to a criminal calendar, I expect her to be patient but firm when dealing with defendants, compassionate and just when dealing with the victims of crime, and an exemplary representative of the Judiciary when interacting with other members of the public. The parties, their family members, the witnesses, and anyone else from the public who enters her courtroom will leave it with a greater appreciation for the rule of law and confidence that the judges of Hawaii are fair, intelligent, and even-tempered. She will be well-prepared, well-spoken, and well-reasoned during trials, hearings, and status conferences. I expect that her rulings will be rarely, if ever, overturned on appeal, but also that she will have the courage to set a new precedent when justice demands it.

District Court judges with a criminal or traffic calendar have a unique opportunity and responsibility to guide young attorneys from the Offices of the Prosecutor and the Public Defender as they make their first appearances in court. Ms. Kupau-Odo will be excellent at fulfilling this role, as she has not just the knowledge of the law to steer them in their first months as years as they learn the ropes, but also the patience and grace to provide guidance in a constructive and encouraging way. This not only will contribute to the development of those individual attorneys, it will also raise the quality of criminal law practice in general, which improves our citizens' experience with the lawyers on both sides of the courtroom.

During my life I made it a point to find and follow mentors who were not only smart, but just. People who embodied, represented, and fought for the best of Hawaii. I have had the good fortune to work for three of my heroes and serve alongside a fourth: I spent a semester as an undergraduate volunteering in Patsy Mink's office in D.C.; two summers during law school working as a research assistant for Professor Jon Van Dyke; and a year as the law clerk for then-Judge Sabrina McKenna; additionally, I spent two years on the UH Board of Regents with Nainoa Thompson. I mention this because I see in Ms. Kupau-Odo the potential greatness of the best people I've ever worked for (and with) in my life. Please confirm her appointment to the bench of the District Court.

Sincerely,

Sat K. Freedman

October 17, 2018

TO: Committee On Judiciary
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, October 24, 2018
State Capitol-Conference Room 224
10:30 a.m.

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF SUMMER KUPAU-ODO

We strongly support the nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo to the District Court of the First Circuit. We have known Summer on a personal level for 10 years and in that time have come to know her well and have much respect for her. Her decision-making is well thought out and sound. She is personable, compassionate, intelligent, trustworthy and a hard worker.

She is committed to making Hawaii a better place with her work at the Public Defender's Office, Earthjustice Mid-Pacific Office, and the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation. She is an outstanding wife and mother and cannot think of a better person to become a District Court judge.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony.

Brian and Karen Pang
2753 Manoa Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Testimony of Mariana Löwy-Gerstmar

Deputy Public Defender, State of Hawaii to the Senate Committee on Judiciary

October 24, 2018

JC1: Nomination of SUMMER M.M. KUPAU-ODO to the District Court of the First Circuit

Chair Taniguchi and Committee Members:

I am writing to offer my comments and strong support of the confirmation of Summer Kupau-Odo as First Circuit District Court Judge.

I met Summer three years ago while I was finishing law school at the William S. Richardson School of Law. Summer helped with the Environmental Law Clinic where we assisted numerous neighbors from Maui to submit their water permit application to the State's Water Commission. Summer has been a mentor and a leader, sharing her knowledge and supporting the law school clinic and the community.

Summer is a brilliant litigation attorney having worked for the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation, Earthjustice and the Office of the Public Defender. Her commitment to public service and the community would make her an excellent District Court Judge.

It is an honor to support Summer's nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard on this matter.

Mariana Löwy-Gerstmar

ALYSSA-MARIE YUKIKO HULALI KAU

66-908 Alena Loop • Waialua, Hawai'i 96791 • (808) 218-9455 • amkau@hawaii.edu

To: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair; The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair; and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: JC 1, Testimony in Support of Nomination of Summer M. M. Kupau-Odo

October 19, 2018

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Distinguished Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am submitting this testimony to ask that you recommend the confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Summer M. M. Kupau-Odo.

I have worked with Ms. Kupau-Odo as her former law clerk at Earthjustice Mid-Pacific Office and student and mentee in the Environmental Law Program at the William S. Richardson School of Law. During this time, I had the opportunity to work closely with Ms. Kupau-Odo and have learned a considerable amount under her tutelage. In the cases that I worked on with Ms. Kupau-Odo, she exhibited the highest degree of professionalism when dealing with opposing counsel, clients, and the court. Her strong work ethic and keen legal knowledge is evident in the extreme care that she has for each case. It is because of these traits that Ms. Kupau-Odo has become successful at both civil and criminal litigation and remains highly respected amongst her colleagues.

Ms. Kupau-Odo's depth of thought and analysis, and the ability to digest and convey complex factual circumstances and legal positions with clarity have been evident in my dealings with her. As a co-litigation director and senior associate attorney, Ms. Kupau-Odo has been instrumental in achieving favorable resolutions through keenly perceptive analysis of facts, thorough research, and succinct explications of the practical implications of a course of conduct. She approaches problems and issues with common sense. This attribute will allow her to make determinations, not in a theoretical vacuum, but with a balance of real life considerations. Ms. Kupau-Odo will be an asset as a trial judge and also in facilitating plea negotiations and compromise with sensitivity and practicality. She will be able to appropriately modify and apply these same techniques to efficiently administer justice and better our community from the bench.

I also had the privilege of being Ms. Kupau-Odo's student in Environmental Litigation Seminar course at the William S. Richardson School of Law, where she taught litigation skills and courtroom practice. As a professor, she was patient, responsive, meticulous, and well-prepared, dedicating time outside of her schedule to coach students to perfect their oral and written advocacy skills. Ms. Kupau-Odo demonstrated that she has a good understanding of the difficulty of representing clients in high impact public interest litigation, and set demands for both herself and her students, expecting the highest level of competence, scholarship, professionalism, and zeal.

As both a public interest attorney and former Deputy Public Defender, Ms. Kupau-Odo has dedicated her entire legal career to public service with an impressive record to show, including

ALYSSA-MARIE YUKIKO HULALI KAU

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the representation of citizens and nonprofits in high profile cases to enforce environmental laws concerning the enforcement of state trust obligations to Native Hawaiians, the Hawai'i Environmental Policy Act, state water code, and Federal Clean Water Act. Her exceptional skills at both the trial and appellate levels, understanding of the law, experience, and dedication would be a crucial asset to the district court bench. She has an even-handed approach, a well-balanced and mature judicial temperament and exhibits compassion and understanding for her clients in what are often trying and difficult circumstances for individuals. In addition, her practical knowledge of the evidence and criminal procedure rules likely ensure that verdicts will not be overturned for errors, and her keen ability to interact with prospective jurors will likely translate to efficient and fair jury selections. The judiciary would benefit tremendously with an attorney like Ms. Kupau-Odo who is adept in both criminal and civil law.

On a personal level, a great deal of Ms. Kupau-Odo's effectiveness lies in her humility. As a wife and mother, Ms. Kupau-Odo manages to juggle the demands of being a full-time litigator in a small public-interest, high-impact litigation firm and a full-time parent with great success. As District Court is the court where most of our community will have its first (and perhaps only) experience with the legal system, it is important that community members can identify with and feel confident in the judicial system.

In conclusion, the Judiciary would benefit significantly from the perspective of someone like Ms. Kupau-Odo who has succeeded in differing legal environments. Moreover, her extensive background in bringing justice to indigent and underrepresented communities will continue to allow her to bring a unique and much-needed perspective to the bench. Ms. Kupau-Odo has a long personal history of advocacy on behalf of the underrepresented and in the promotion of equal access to justice. She possesses the qualities required and expected of all judges: intelligence, integrity, diligence, humility, compassion, fairness, and professionalism. I enthusiastically support the nomination of Summer M. M. Kupau-Odo to the District Court of the First Circuit.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Alyssa-Marie Y. H. Kau

October 19, 2018

TO: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF CONFIRMATION OF SUMMER KUPAU-ODO
HEARING: Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

I am writing in support of Summer M. M. Kupau-Odo to be confirmed as District Judge of the First Circuit Court. I have known Ms. Kupau-Odo for a number of years and have been fortunate to work with her both in the office setting and outside.

I worked with Ms. Kupau-Odo as a colleague when she was a Deputy Public Defender and have seen her argue before the Hawai'i Supreme Court and at the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. When Ms. Kupau-Odo was in the appellate division at the Office of the Public Defender, many coworkers, including myself, would consult her, because she was a wealth of knowledge.

In addition to working alongside Ms. Kupau-Odo at the Office of the Public Defender, we have been a part of the same Lawyer League softball team. After she began working for Earth Justice, I have seen her in the community, as well.

Throughout the years I have been around Ms. Kupau-Odo in both work and community settings and can confidently say that she is consistent in character and composure. I believe this is an important quality for a judge to possess.

Ms. Kupau-Odo has the professional skills and character essential to preside as a judge. First, she is a person of the highest integrity and moral courage. Both in and out of the courtroom, Ms. Kupau-Odo is always respectful, forthright, and principled. When she zealously

October 19, 2018

and advice, as she is both knowledgeable and level-headed. I have seen Ms. Kupau-Odo interact with fellow attorneys, clients, and members of the community- she is equally fair, compassionate, and respectful to all. While she is a compassionate and generous individual, Ms. Kupau-Odo is candid, strong, and sharp. Out of all of her assets, I believe that Ms. Kupau-Odo's intelligence, consistency, and principles make her an ideal candidate for the District Judge of the of the First Circuit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lianne M. Aoki". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Lianne M. Aoki

Tom Heinrich

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2018 5:21 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Cc: davidlhenkin@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for JC1 on Oct 24, 2018 10:30AM (Written Only)

JC1

Submitted on: 10/19/2018

Testimony for on Oct 24, 2018 10:30AM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
David Henkin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Rhoads, and members of the Committee, My name is David Henkin, and I write in strong support of the appointment of Summer Kupau-Odo to the District Court of the First Circuit. I had the pleasure of working with Ms. Kupau-Odo for five years during her time at Earthjustice. I am very familiar with her legal abilities, having reviewed many of her briefs and watched her perform successfully at oral argument. At all times, Ms. Kupau-Odo demonstrated diligence, legal acumen, compassion and a strong commitment to serving the public interest. Ms. Kupau-Odo remains calm and deliberate in even the most stressful work situations. I am confident she will do an excellent job as a district court judge. Thank you for considering this testimony.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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October 19 2008

*To: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair; The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair;
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary*

Re: JC 1, Testimony in Support of Nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo

Hearing: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 10:30 a.m., Conference Room 224

I am writing to support Summer Kupau-Odo's nomination to District Circuit Court. As her former high school English teacher and family friend, I can attest to Ms. Kupau-Odo's highest character.

It was my after-school Mock Trial activity at Lahainaluna High School that introduced Ms. Kupau-Odo, when she was a sophomore, to the world of law. Even at that young age, Ms. Kupau-Odo demonstrated remarkable poise and intelligence while delivering her opening speech at the podium. She and her team captured the Maui Championship and went on to compete for the State Title in Honolulu.

I have watched Ms. Kupau-Odo blossom into a remarkable advocate for her fellow man. Her Hawaiian roots combined with her passion for environmental protections and community justice create a blend that gives her wisdom as well as perspective.

Her years in the public defender's office have grounded her in all aspects of both trial and appellate cases. Thus Ms Kupau-Odo has a solid and diverse background that has prepared her to serve as a District Court Judge.

On a side note, Ms. Kupau-Odo, in 2001, wrote and published "*Exploring Historic Lahaina*", a book documenting in photos and text the early days of the town of Lahaina. Included in this book is the former bar and restaurant, Seaside Inn, owned by her family. Ms. Kupau-Odo has a deep love for her hometown.

I bring for Ms. Kupau-Odo the highest praise for her tenacity, integrity and compassion. Hawaii is fortunate to have Ms. Kupau-Odo as a member of the bench of the District Circuit Court, First Circuit.

Yours respectfully,

Penny Wakida
Lahaina, HI

Tom Heinrich

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, October 20, 2018 1:29 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Cc: bmatsuoka@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for JC1 on Oct 24, 2018 10:30AM (Written Only)

JC1

Submitted on: 10/20/2018
Testimony for on Oct 24, 2018 10:30AM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Bert Y. Matsuoka	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Bert Y. Matsuoka 435 Kupaua Pl Honolulu, HI 96821 October 20, 2018 The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair; The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair; and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary Hawaii State Capitol, Room 219 415 South Beretania St. Honolulu, HI 96913 RE: JC1, Testimony in Support of the Nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo Hearing: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 10:30 a.m., Conference Room 224 I am submitting testimony in strong support of the nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo to serve as District Court Judge of the First Circuit. As a former Chairman of the Hawaii Paroling Authority, I have had the opportunity to observe Ms. Kupau-Odo at parole hearings. I found her to be an excellent attorney. Ms. Kupau-Odo was always timely, very well prepared, and able to well articulate all aspects of the case she represented. Additionally, her demeanor and temperament were always professional and respectful to all parties. I also want to state that I am impressed with Ms. Kupau-Odo's outside activities. She is active with community organizations and is passionate about issues that affect the lives of our citizens. I know too that she is a great wife and mother. Overall, she is just a very well-balanced individual. In closing, Ms. Kupau-Odo is not just an exemplary attorney, but an outstanding person who will be an excellent judge. Without any hesitation, I offer my strong support of Summer Kupau-Odo for District Court Judge. Sincerely, Bert Y. Matsuoka

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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To: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair; The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair; and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: JC 1, Testimony in Support of Nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo

Hearing: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 10:30 a.m., Conference Room 224

I am writing in strong support for Summer M.M. Kupau-Odo's confirmation to the District Court of the First Circuit.

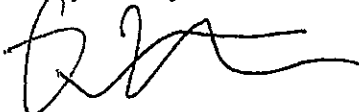
I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Hawai'i. I have personal knowledge of Ms. Kupau-Odo's qualifications for this judicial nomination. I have known her through colleagues and professional connections for around three years. I now work with her at the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation. I believe that Ms. Kupau-Odo should be confirmed to the District Court of the First Circuit.

Ms. Kupau-Odo has a reputation in the legal community as an experienced and extremely skilled trial lawyer who is both fair and compassionate. Prior to her working at Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation, I consulted with her on legal issues and trusted and valued her opinions. Other members of the bar would consult with her as well given her reputation as a brilliant advocate. Her knowledge and experience commands respect from her peers and will serve her well on the bench.

In her short time at Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation, Ms. Kupau-Odo has shown herself to be deserving of her reputation. She has been an effective advocate for our disadvantaged client base, and has shown that she believes whole heartedly that the legal profession should be one of service. She has also proven herself to be a strong manager and leader. Her commitment to hard work and providing legal services to our clients inspires others. She is friendly, funny, and a pleasure to work with.

Ms. Kupau-Odo is an excellent asset to the bench. She has a true love for Hawai'i and its people, and has made a career out of helping people and places in need. I have no doubt that she would fulfill the duties of her position as a fair and reasonable arbiter of cases while being mindful of the hardships that those appearing before her face. I am proud to call her a colleague and a friend, and I know that she is deserving of this appointment.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony,



David Kauila Kopper, Esq.

Tom Heinrich

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2018 1:11 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Cc: kawena.beaupre@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for JC1 on Oct 24, 2018 10:30AM (Written Only)

JC1

Submitted on: 10/22/2018
Testimony for on Oct 24, 2018 10:30AM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Kawena Beaupre	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair; The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair; and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary Re: JC 1, Testimony in Support of Nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo Hearing: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 10:30 a.m., Conference Room 224 I whole-heartedly write in support of judicial nominee Summer Kupau-Odo. I have known Ms. Kupau-Odo for over 17 years beginning with our 1L year at the William S. Richardson School of Law. She is the epitome of a public servant and embodies all the qualities of an excellent judge including patience, open-mindedness, compassion, humility and critical-reasoning skills. More importantly, she genuinely cares about people and our community. I fully support her nomination and hold her in the highest regard. Sincerely, Kawena Beaupre

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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October 23, 2018

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF SUMMER KUPAU-ODO

HEARING: Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of Summer Kupau-Odo's judicial nomination for the District Court of the First Circuit. I have known Summer for many years, having first met her when I joined the Office of Public Defender in 2007. Although Summer's legal career was only a few years old at that point, she had already established herself as one of the most skilled, dedicated and well-respected attorneys in the office. She was known for her commitment to going above and beyond for her clients, and I have always admired her devotion and her belief in our justice system. And I know those values have followed her to the positions she has held since leaving the Public Defender's Office.

Having appeared before countless Judges throughout my own career, I believe Summer has all the qualities a Judge should possess. Aside from her impressive legal knowledge, she has the ideal temperament to successfully handle the voluminous District Court calendar. I am confident she will be fair, reasoned and thoughtful about every decision she is tasked with making.

Summer is an ideal candidate for the position she has been nominated for. I have no doubt she will bring her tireless work ethic and commitment to the practice of law to her service on the Judiciary. She will make an excellent judge and she has my full support.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard on her nomination.

Sincerely,

/s/ Hayley Y.C. Cheng

Hayley Y.C. Cheng

October 22, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Doris Lum-Mattos and I worked with Summer Kupau-Odo while she was at the Office of the Public Defender. I felt compelled to write this letter because of her exceptional work ethic and her passion for the justice system. At the office, there is a trial division in family court that rotates every 6 months. Summer was the attorney above me in the rotation and thus, I inherited her case load when she transitioned to a different division. Family court is known to have a heavy case load, more than most other divisions. When she passed her cases to me, every single case had been worked on to its fullest. Every client knew what would be happening in their case, even before I made a single call to any of them. Her cases were carefully reviewed, researched and worked on. Everything from plea negotiations to witness interviews were done. Probably most impressive was the fact that she had sat down with the clients who weren't going to trial but were looking at a possible jail term as a sentence. Some attorneys in the same boat would have left it for the next attorney to deal with. It impressed me that Summer took the time to advise them why trial was not in their best interest. While Summer was at our office, she also second chaired one of our office's more senior felony attorney in a very big trial. Summer was asked to be part of the trial because of her ability to research and discern the legal issues in that case. Her knowledge of case law and how to apply it in the trial was so impressive. There were times when she conceded issues that weren't backed by case law. I learned from her that as attorneys we are held to argue what the law supports and not to just argue everything for the sake of arguing. In my time working with her, I have come to see that Summer makes such an impression without ever having to raise her voice. She researches the law before her arguments. I have never seen her cut off an opponent or make arguments personal. I believe she will make a great judge given her intellect and judicial temperament. I believe both sides will respect her decisions and even in the toughest of decisions, she will make the most appropriate judgment. Thank you for taking time to read my humble opinion about Summer.

Sincerely,

Doris Lum-Mattos

To: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair; The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair;
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: JC 1, Testimony in Support of Nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo

Hearing: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 10:30 a.m., Conference Room 224

I submit testimony in strong support of Summer Kupau-Odo's nomination to serve as District Court Judge of the First Circuit.

My name is Li'ulā Kotaki. I am testifying in my individual capacity, but I am an attorney at the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation. I have had the opportunity to work with Ms. Kupau-Odo during her tenure here and believe that she will serve well as a district court judge. She is intelligent and analytical with the positive temperament down-to-earth nature that appropriately balances her decisions. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with her and only wish that it could have been longer.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Tom Heinrich

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2018 2:53 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Cc: BIANCA@KAHEA.ORG
Subject: Submitted testimony for JC1 on Oct 24, 2018 10:30AM (Written Only)

JC1

Submitted on: 10/22/2018

Testimony for on Oct 24, 2018 10:30AM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Bianca Isaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Committee members, Please accept my support for confirmation of District Court of the First Circuit, Judicial Nominee, SUMMER M.M. KUPAU-ODO, for a term to expire in 6 years. In the past few years, I have worked with Kupao-Odo in several capacities and admired her as a legal practitioner prior to becoming acquainted with her. Kupao-Odo would bring superb skills in problem solving, ethical reasoning, and interpersonal matters to the bench. I wholly support your confirmation of nominee Kupao-Odo. Mahalo for considering my testimony. Bianca Kai Isaki, Ph.D., Esq.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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October 16, 2018

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF SUMMER KUPAU-ODO

HEARING: Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

I am writing in strong support of Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald's nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i. Ms. Kupau-Odo has the experience, compassion, work ethic, and temperament to make her a strong face of the judiciary.

I first met Ms. Kupau-Odo while clerking to the Honorable Michael D. Wilson in 2009. Ms. Kupau-Odo was assigned to the misdemeanor jury demand section during this year so I had the opportunity to observe her represent many clients and try many cases. What stood out to me from observing her as a law clerk was how compassionate she was to her clients and respectful to the deputy prosecuting attorney, the Judge and the Court staff.

I then had the honor of working with Ms. Kupau-Odo for several years at the Office of the Public Defender. As a coworker, she was a team player, approachable, diligent, and smart. I always looked up to her ability to approach issues in a calm and respectful manner.

If confirmed, I have no doubt that Ms. Kupau-Odo will be a great judge.

Jacquelyn T. Esser

Tom Heinrich

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2018 6:51 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Cc: chowr004@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for JC1 on Oct 24, 2018 10:30AM (Written Only)

JC1

Submitted on: 10/22/2018

Testimony for on Oct 24, 2018 10:30AM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Raymond Chow	Individual	Support	No

Comments: October 22, 2018 To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair Senate Committee on Judiciary RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF SUMMER KUPAU-ODO HEARING: Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224 Dear Chair Brian Taniguchi and Members of the Committee: We would like to express our support for the nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo to the position of District Court Judge. We have known Summer on a personal level for the past seven years. During that time, we have come to know her well, and we respect and admire the person she is. We know her to be intelligent, fair, level headed, unbiased, impartial, and compassionate. She is a dedicated professional who treats everyone with respect. Born and raised in Hawaii, and of Hawaiian ancestry, Summer truly cares about Hawaii and it's people, and is committed to improving the quality of life for all. We are confident that Summer would make an exceptional District Court Judge based on her background, temperament, intellect and integrity. Sincerely, Raymond and Riki-Ann Chow

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Tom Heinrich

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2018 7:26 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Cc: audreystanley@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for JC1 on Oct 24, 2018 10:30AM (Written Only)

JC1

Submitted on: 10/22/2018
Testimony for on Oct 24, 2018 10:30AM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
audrey stanley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair; the Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair; and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary RE: JC 1, Testimony in Support of Nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo Hearing: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 10:30 a.m., Conference Room 224
From: Audrey Stanley I write in support of the appointment of Summer Kupau-Odo to serve as a district judge. She is extremely smart, talented, dedicated, compassionate, and humble. Not only does she have a wealth of experience with the criminal system and processes as a Deputy Public Defender, she also is familiar with civil litigation and procedure, which will enable her to succeed in any district court assignment or rotation. I first heard from Summer when she gave a compelling, succinct, concise oral argument before the Hawaii Supreme Court approximately 10 years ago. At that time, she impressed me with her wit and knowledge of the case and the law. Over the years, I have seen her develop from a strong trial attorney to an advocate for various communities. She is respected by many attorneys because of her honesty, diligence, and dedication. I believe she will be a great judge because her experiences as a trial attorney, litigator, and community advocate will enable her to be a compassionate yet impartial judge. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Best, Audrey Stanley

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
Committee on Judiciary

Senate of the State of Hawai'i

Lance D. Collins, Ph.D
Law Office of Lance D. Collins

Wednesday, October 24, 2018 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 224

Testimony in Support of Nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo
Judiciary Communication No. 1
Chief Justice's Appointment Order No. 2018-7

Thank you for the opportunity to testify about my strong, heartfelt and unqualified support for Summer Kupau-Odo's nomination as District Court Judge for the First Circuit.

Summer is exceptionally well-qualified to be a judge. She far exceeds the qualities one looks to in a judge. She has great legal acumen, a broad range of legal experience, well known diligence, and unshakable integrity. I have known her personally since we attended the William S. Richardson School of Law although I have known her family since childhood.

District court judges engender confidence and respect for the judicial system by the clarity and reasonableness of their decisions, their ability to not just listen but hear the main points of litigants, especially when unrepresented, as well as to complete a heavy workload. Summer has a long history as an attorney demonstrating her ability to skillfully execute these types of task with ease.

District court judges also must demonstrate a deep sense of empathy especially in light of the heavy work load and the high ratio of self-represented parties. At the same time, a district court judge must be able to be able to apply the law to the situation and explain such rulings in intelligible terms to nonspecialists. Summer has a distinguished track record of having applied these skills in a range of contexts through her varied legal career.

Summer is also a wonderful person. She has very considerate and respectful of others. Although highly accomplished, she is very humble. She is approachable and collegial in all her different social roles as advocate, family member, friend, colleague.

Summer is part of the community and has a deep understanding of the problems that the common person has. She cares deeply about our community and I'm confident that she will do her very best to do justice in every case before her thereby benefiting society and the strengthening confidence in the judicial system.

Please confirm Summer Kupau-Odo as a District Court Judge of the First Circuit.

///

Law Offices of Joyce K. Matsumori-Hoshijo

P. O. Box 240344
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96824
Phone: (808) 591-9597
Email: jkmhlaw@aol.com

October 22, 2018

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: JC 1, Testimony in Support of Nomination of
Summer Kupau-Odo

Hearing: Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 10:30 a.m.,
Conference Room 224

Dear Senators Taniguchi, Rhoads, and Members of the Senate Committee on
Judiciary:

I am writing to express my strong support for the selection of Summer Kupau-Odo as a District Court Judge of the First Circuit. I am a part-time member of the Hawai'i Paroling Authority (HPA) and an attorney in private practice. The focus of my legal work, previously with the Office of the Public Defender and currently in private practice, has been appellate advocacy.

I met Ms. Kupau-Odo while she was working at the Office of the Public Defender. I have known her in a professional capacity since 2011 when I began serving as a member of the HPA. Ms. Kupau-Odo represented numerous clients before the HPA from 2011 to 2013 (when she left the Office). In her presentations to our 3-panel Board, I found her to be exceptionally well-versed in the relevant law and a strong, articulate advocate for her clients, both in her legal writing and oral argument skills.

I have always known Ms. Kupau-Odo to be a most thoughtful and even-tempered person. She treats everyone with respect. In her many appearances before the HPA, she has handled some very challenging felony cases involving minimum term settings and parole consideration. Even in those cases where the Board's decisions were adverse to her clients, I have

Re: Judicial Nominee Summer Kupau-Odo
Page two

never seen her lose her composure. She remained objective and conducted herself with the utmost professionalism.

Ms. Kupau-Odo is well-regarded in the legal community as a compassionate, principled, and courageous individual. She has a strong sense of justice and fairness and holds herself to the highest ethical standards. I respect Ms. Kupau-Odo as someone who cares deeply about her work and improving the lives of others in the community. In our discussions about the law and life in general, I found her to be "wise beyond her years." I have every confidence that Ms. Kupau-Odo has the moral character and intellectual ability to serve the bench with honor.

Thank you very much for your time and attention to this letter of support. Should you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached at (808) 591-9597.

Yours truly,

Joyce K. Matsumori-Hoshijo
Attorney at Law

October 22, 2018

TO: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF SUMMER KUPAU-ODO

HEARING: Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 10:30 A.M. Conference Room 224

Dear Senator Brian Taniguchi,

Please accept my written testimony in support of the nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo to District Court of the First Circuit.

I have known Summer Kupau-Odo for approximately 13 years. She is married to my husband's close friend Donovan Odo. Although I do not have any professional experience to share about Summer, I would like to offer my testimony on her family and personal life. Upon meeting Summer, I immediately could feel her genuine kindness and easy going nature. It was easy to carry a conversation with her and it was easy getting to know Summer. I could also tell how much family means to her. This was very evident to see personally the bond that she has with her family, especially with her son Koali. We would have conversations on the things we go through as moms but Koali is a mild mannered child and that is because of his mom's nurturing.

I admire Summer as a mother, a friend and as a professional. Her work is admirable as a public defender and especially with her work in defending the environment to preserve Oluwalu and returning water to the systems on Maui. Maui is also home to me and it's people like Summer that keep Maui no ka oi. The nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo to the District Court is an excellent choice. Summer is a good listener, she's smart and fair. These are the qualities that make a good judge and I support Summer's nomination.

I thank you and the other members of the committee for your time and reading my testimony. I humbly give my full support toward the confirmation of Summer Kupau-Odo to the position of District Court Judge.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Egami

To: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair; The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair;
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: JC 1, Testimony in Support of Nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo

Hearing: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 10:30 a.m., Conference Room 224

Date: October 23, 2018 (via online submission)

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Rhoads, and Committee Members,

It is my privilege to submit this testimony in wholehearted support of Summer Kupau-Odo's judicial nomination to the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i. I have known Summer since we started law school together at the William S. Richardson School of Law approximately 18 years ago (in 2000). In the 14 years since graduating law school, I have practiced litigation and real estate transactions at Case Lombardi & Pettit, ALC, continued my real estate transactional practice as an associate then partner at Chang Iwamasa LLP, and am currently a Senior Counsel with Kamehameha Schools. I submit this testimony in my individual capacity (not on behalf of my employer).

Summer has always had an outstanding reputation among her colleagues. In law school, Summer was a top student, was heavily involved in the law school community, and received many honors and awards. Since then, she has clearly demonstrated her dedication to this community by her tireless public service to the people of Hawai'i, including via her work as a Deputy Public Defender, Senior Associate Attorney with Earthjustice, and Co-Litigation Director / Staff Attorney with the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation.

Not only does Summer have the skills, experience and intellect required to serve as a judge, she also has a temperament excellently suited to the judiciary. Among other things, I have known Summer to be fair, thoughtful, articulate, honest, well-prepared, humble, hard-working, committed, considerate, contemplative, patient, compassionate, respectful and concerned with doing the right thing.

For these reasons, Ms. Kupau-Odo's nomination has my fervent support. I thank you for this opportunity to be heard.

/s/ Malia S. L. Day
Malia S. L. Day, Esq.

Jennifer D.K. Ng
c/o 101 Aupuni Street, Suite 248
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Committee on Judiciary
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
State Capitol, Conference Room 224
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815
Via email: JDCtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: JC 1
Testimony in Support of SUMMER M.M. KUPAU-ODO to the District Court of
the First Circuit
Hearing: Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

Dear Senator Taniguchi, Senator Rhoads and Committee Members:

Please accept my letter in strong support of Summer M.M. Kupau-Odo's appointment as Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit. I have known Ms. Kupau-Odo for over ten years, and can say with all confidence that she has the intellect, character, and temperament necessary to be an outstanding jurist.

I first met Ms. Kupau-Odo while serving together as deputy public defenders for the State of Hawai'i. She was known for her zealous and skilled advocacy, excelling not only in trials, but also in client counseling and appellate work. Despite the demands of her legal career, Ms. Kupau-Odo is active in the community, serving on various boards and committees, and as a mentor at the William S. Richardson School of Law.

In addition to her legal ability and strong community involvement, Ms. Kupau-Odo is a wonderful friend, wife and mother. I have had the privilege of regularly spending time with Ms. Kupau-Odo and her family and have observed her as she works to instill in her son the strong morals and values that she believes in and exhibits.

It is without reservation or hesitation that I offer this letter in support of Ms. Kupau-Odo to serve as Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Jennifer D.K. Ng

Tom Heinrich

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 12:07 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Cc: rachelbriggs316@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for JC1 on Oct 24, 2018 10:30AM (Written Only)

JC1

Submitted on: 10/23/2018

Testimony for on Oct 24, 2018 10:30AM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Rachel Briggs	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair; The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair; and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary Re: JC 1, Testimony in Support of Nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo Hearing: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 10:30 a.m., Conference Room 224 I worked with Summer for a few months in 2017, when I was a law clerk at Earthjustice. It was a privilege to learn from her, and I truly cannot imagine someone better suited to serve as a judge. Summer has a calm competence and clear command of the law, as I am sure most judicial nominees do. But what I found so impressive and unique in working with Summer were her compassion, and dedication to her community. Summer focused on the people involved in the cases we worked on together, and was tireless in her efforts to come up with creative solutions. Even where we ultimately were not able to solve our clients' problems, Summer sought out ways to give them some hope or further avenue to explore. I very much appreciated the example Summer set of how to practice law in a way that acknowledged and honored the experiences of the people involved in disputes, and that emphasized serving those people rather than simply "winning" a case. As a Judge, I have no doubt that Summer would treat everyone that entered her courtroom with that same compassion and dignity, while also applying her formidable intellect and determination to solving the problems before her in the best way the law allows. Summer would be an excellent addition to the Hawai'i State Judiciary, and I encourage you to affirm her nomination. Best, Rachel Briggs

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TO: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, Testimony in Support of Nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo

HEARING: Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

We are writing in support of Chief Justice Recktenwald's nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo to the District Court of the First Circuit. We have known Ms. Kupau-Odo professionally and personally for over 10 years and believe she is highly and uniquely qualified for the position.

In our time working together at the Office of the Public Defender, I always admired Ms. Kupau-Odo's knowledge of the law, work ethic, and professionalism. She routinely went above and beyond the already high demands that come with being a public defender. She has always been someone I turned to when I had questions or needed advice. However, the qualities that are most admirable are her compassion and dedication to fighting for justice for the indigent and underserved members of our community. Ms. Kupau-Odo treats everyone, client, co-workers, opposing counsel, and staff with respect and dignity. She will make an outstanding judge.

Sincerely,

/s/ Melissa Lam Enright

/s/ Christian Enright

October 23, 2018

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF SUMMER KUPAU-ODO

HEARING: Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

I am writing in strong support of Summer M.M. Kupau-Odo's judicial nomination to the District Court of the First Circuit.

I have known Summer since 2001 when we both entered the William S. Richardson School of Law as first-year law students. We quickly learned we had a lot in common: we are both Hawaiian women, both of our mothers were teachers for the State of Hawaii, we both loved dancing hula and both our families are from Maui.

Throughout our years in law school, I watched Summer work diligently and quietly. Summer is extremely intelligent, but also very humble. In fact, I did not know that she had received the highest grade in most of our first-year classes until a classmate told me. As a former educator, Summer also sought out opportunities to challenge herself to grow as a legal mind and as a person. She was a member of Law Review, the Environmental Law Program and multiple award-winning Moot Court teams. She also played on the Ete Football team, was a member of 'Ahahui O Hawai'i and danced hula in the Law School halau. Her dynamic interests afforded her the opportunity to meet and befriend many individuals in our class; it was therefore no surprise that she was selected as our class speaker at our graduation from law school in May 2004.

After law school, Summer was hired to work for the Honorable Simeon R. Acoba, Jr. Summer and I were roommates at the time and I watched her work tirelessly researching different areas of the law and drafting many opinions. But what inspired me most about watching her during her clerkship is how much she genuinely enjoyed learning and discussing the law. While many might have been intimidated by the level of work that a Supreme Court clerkship demands, Summer happily accepted this challenge and thrived.

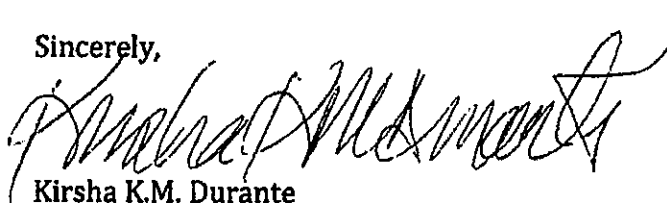
After completing our respective clerkships, Summer and I both began working at the Office of the Public Defender. Because we only started approximately two months apart from one another, we moved on parallel tracks through the different positions at the office. I worked closely with her in the Trials Division. I spent many nights and weekends with Summer working on our cases, meeting with our clients, researching the law, drafting motions and preparing for bench and jury trials. As a trial attorney, Summer zealously advocated for her clients. Summer spent many hours in courtrooms advocating and always maintained the highest level of professionalism and deference to the court.

In the last few years of her employment at the Office of the Public Defender, Summer worked in the Appellate Division of the office. In that position, Summer drafted numerous briefs and regularly appeared before the appellate courts for oral argument. Many of the cases Summer worked on have helped to expand, change and even overrule jurisprudence in the area of criminal law. Not only is Summer a zealous advocate in the trials courtrooms, but she is also a zealous advocate through her writing.

Through all the years I have known Summer, I have learned that Summer will always take the most advantage of any opportunity presented to her. In law school, she excelled in many diverse activities. In her clerkship, she challenged herself to learn many different areas of the law. Finally, at the Office of the Public Defender she was determined to develop skills in every level of client advocacy. I have no doubt that she would apply this same type of passion, humility and perseverance as a Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit.

I support Summer M.M. Kupau-Odo's judicial nomination because she possesses the legal expertise, character and demeanor that any good judge should have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirsha K.M. Durante", written in a cursive style.

Kirsha K.M. Durante

October 22, 2018

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF SUMMER KUPAU-ODO

HEARING: Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

I am writing in strong support of Summer M. M. Kupau-Odo's nomination as District Judge of the First District Court. Throughout the years I have been around Summer in both the legal and community settings and her character has never changed. She has always conducted herself with dignity, and treats everyone with kindness and respect.

A majority of my career as an advocate has been spent in the various district courts of the First Circuit and I have appeared before numerous judges. A district court judge has to deal with a very high number of cases and clients who are usually navigating the judicial system for the first time. To be an effective district court judge, one must possess certain qualities. A judge must be knowledgeable, fair, respectful, and level-headed. Summer embodies all of these qualities.

Summer has appeared in district court so she is familiar with court procedures as well as the law. She will always be prepared for court and will conduct diligent research in order to address legal issues. I have seen Summer interact with fellow attorneys, clients, and members of the community and she is equally fair and respectful to all. Summer has the rare gift of being both compassionate and candid. She will be able to speak with the people who come through district court in a manner that will make them feel heard.

I support Summer M.M. Kupau-Odo's judicial nomination because we need more judges like Summer at the district court level. Judges who have a wealth of legal expertise, have first-hand experience in the district court system, and are comfortable interacting and communicating with people. Summer possesses the experience, intelligence, character, and demeanor that any good judge should have and she would be a tremendous asset to the bench.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessica R. Domingo', written in a cursive style.

Jessica R. Domingo

October 22, 2018

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF SUMMER KUPAU-ODO

HEARING: Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

It is a privilege to write this testimony in support of Summer Kupau-Odo. I have known Ms. Kupau-Odo for fifteen years. A span which includes our time as law students at The William S. Richardson School of Law as well as working together at the Office of the Public Defender State of Hawaii.

While at the Public Defender's Office, Ms. Kupau-Odo diligently prepared her cases each day for court. Often this meant staying at work well beyond normal State work hours. She did so without hesitation because she knew the time spent meticulously preparing each of her cases was to the benefit of the defendants she represented. Her preparation enabled her to properly advocate for her clients.

During her zealous advocacy, Ms. Kupau-Odo always maintained respect for the court, its staff, opposing counsel, police officers, civilian witnesses, and of course the people she represented. She is caring and compassionate. She treats everyone with dignity.

Ms. Kupau-Odo possesses strong legal acumen. She knows her case law. As her coworker, I would often come to her with questions of law and she would either cite the applicable case law or statute or point me in the right direction to the answer I was seeking. She has argued appellate cases before the Hawaii Intermediate Court of Appeals and the Hawaii Supreme Court with vigor and confidence in her knowledge of the law.

Ms. Kupau-Odo is a person of strong moral character. I have never witnessed her say anything or behave in a manner which would cause me to question her integrity. She is humble and selfless. She understands, and she can aptly handle the responsibility that comes with being a judge. It is because of her character that I know she can be trusted with the power and the privilege of serving as a judge for the people of Hawaii. I am confident she will not abuse this privilege. Ms. Kupau-Odo has my utmost support for her nomination and confirmation.

Respectfully Submitted,



Okechukwu "Okie" Amadi
Deputy Public Defender
State of Hawaii

Tom Heinrich

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 11:54 PM
To: JDCTestimony
Cc: lkarinen2@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for JC1 on Oct 24, 2018 10:30AM (Written Only)

JC1

Submitted on: 10/23/2018
Testimony for on Oct 24, 2018 10:30AM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Lori Gomez-Karinen	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I have the pleasure and honor to write a testimony to have Summer Kupau-Odo confirmed on Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2018. Summer is a product of and testimony to her culture: her upbringing; her education; her wide experiences, locally, nationally, and globally; her passion to serve and make a difference in life; the wisdom gained, learned from those who went before her; and her resilience to take time and change change as opportunities to chart a better future. She is a blend of two cultures: Hawaiian and Japanese. She has taken the core values of both and have used them to guide her through life. As a Hawaiian, she reflects the Hawaiian concept of "Ahupu'aa". This concept is one of survival, sustenance, and the foundation from which all values are taught to our island communities. Kuleana, pono, aloha, lokahi are imbedded in her character. From her Japanese culture, the core values learned parallel the Hawaiian values: kuleana (responsibility), ike pono (to see, understand, and do what is right; ho'ihi (treat with respect); pa'ahana (be industrious, hard working); and ha'aha (humility). Summer will bring to her position, pending her confirmation, all of these core values, values needed to uphold the high standards and dignity of her position. I encourage you to make solid your confirmation. She will prove to be an asset to the justice system. Thank you for your time. Malama pono, Lori

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Rosanne K. Goo, Attorney at Law
44-662 Kuono Place, Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
808-349-5344; rosannekgoo@outlook.com

October 23, 2018

VIA ONLINE SUBMISSION

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair;
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair; and
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: JC – 1, Testimony in Support of Nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo
Hearing: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 at 10:30 a.m., Conference Room 224

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo.

I have known Summer since June 2018 when we started our work together on behalf of the Abigail K. K. Kawananakoa Foundation in the trust proceeding currently before the Probate Court. During these months I have had an opportunity to observe Summer's exceptional work ethic and passion for the law. Summer has consistently demonstrated a willingness to go above and beyond to do the work necessary and to apply the law in a way that is intended to seek justice and a fair outcome for her client and for Ms. Kawananakoa.

The circumstances under which we have worked together required Summer and other staff attorneys at Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation to come together with me (outside counsel), never having worked together before and set to work under challenging circumstances – 30 days to comb through a year's worth of pleadings to file a responsive pleading in the pending petition to remove Ms. Kawananakoa's chosen successor Trustee.

Summer had primarily drafting responsibility for the first response we filed on behalf of our client and she exhibited an ability to learn a new area of law quickly under challenging circumstances and to apply that law to the facts to craft a very well-reasoned, highly effective pleading that set the tone for the client's position on all issues in the proceeding going forward.

Time and time again over the last several months Summer has demonstrated she is of high moral character, has strength to sustain herself under stressful circumstances, and is compassionate and able to discern what is just and right for her client while seeing all sides of an issue. As a former Public Defender, former staff attorney at Earth Justice and current staff attorney at NHLC, she has a breadth of work experience that will complement her service on the bench. Based on her exceptional work ethic, high level of legal acumen and her strong

moral character, I whole heartedly support Summer's nomination and believe she will be an asset to the Judiciary if confirmed.

Very truly yours,


Rosanne K. Goo

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

1130 N. NIMITZ HIGHWAY, SUITE A-254, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-2080, FACSIMILE: (808) 586-2222

JOHN M. TONAKI
PUBLIC DEFENDER

WILLIAM C. BAGASOL
DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

October 23 ,2018

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Chair
And Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol
417 S. King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF
SUMMER KUPAU-ODO

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM C. BAGASOL, DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER,
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Dear Chairman Taniguchi and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I am submitting this written testimony in strong support for the nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo as District Court Judge of the First Circuit.

I have known Summer Kupau-Odo for over 13 years. I was her supervisor for part of that time when she was employed at the Office of the Public Defender. While at the Office of the Public Defender she accumulated substantial trial experience and clearly distinguished herself as a superior legal analyst. Her additional legal experiences at Earth Justice and the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation has further prepared her to become an outstanding Judge.

In working with her over the years, it is obvious that she is a highly intelligent individual. Together with her natural talent, she is an excellent student of the law, an extremely hard worker and conscientious lawyer.

In addition to her outstanding legal abilities, Summer is a person that is a patient and kind individual. I fully expect that she will exemplify excellent judicial temperament on and off the bench. She is truly a good person that comes from a very supportive and wonderful family.

I can further testify that she is a person of the highest integrity and ethical standards. I have no doubt that she will be able to fulfill her Judicial responsibilities and duties. Summer Kupau-Odo has all the tools to become an excellent Jurist and I recommend her for the position of District Court Judge without hesitation.

Sincerely,

/s/ William C. Bagasol

William C. Bagasol

October 23, 2018

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: JC 1, TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF SUMMER KUPAU-ODO

HEARING: Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 224

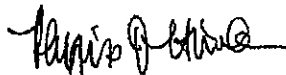
I write in wholehearted support of nominee Summer M. M. Kupau-Odo as District Judge of the First Circuit. I met Summer when she joined the Public Defender's Office and got to know her as she worked her way up, handling misdemeanor, and later felony cases. She is extremely bright and well-versed in the law. Later, she joined the Appellate Section where I work as one of five senior appellate deputies. Thus I know her legal work is top-notch, as we have spent many hours discussing our cases and their appellate issues.

Summer has a very strong work ethic. She has no problem putting in hours to research an area or issue until she is confident that she understands the law. I am certain that this diligence will serve her well should she be appointed District Court Judge. Besides being knowledgeable about the law, Summer is practical in problem-solving and will certainly contribute to reducing, not increasing, the Judiciary's caseload.

As my former Appeals colleague, Summer clearly has strong research and writing skills. She also handled oral arguments several times before the ICA and Supreme Court. Summer also has wide-ranging interests, which include earning a certificate in Environmental Law at the WSRSL; I did not know this about her until she left us for Earth Justice. Summer is also conscious of her Native Hawaiian roots; I was not surprised when she joined the staff of Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation.

As to judicial temperament, Summer is clearly calm and poised; I believe she will make an excellent jurist. She is an honest person, of good moral character, who would, without a doubt, be an asset to the Judiciary.

Sincerely,



Phyllis J. Hironaka
Deputy Public Defender

October 23, 2018

To: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair; The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair; and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: JC 1, Testimony in Support of Nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo

Hearing: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 10:30 a.m., Conference Room 224

I am a member of the Hawaii State Bar Association and a partner with the law firm of Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel LLP. I wholeheartedly support Summer M. M. Kupau-Odo for the position of Judge of the District Court of the First Circuit.

I have known Ms. Kupau-Odo for over fifteen years. I have known her to be an intelligent, dedicated and hardworking individual. I first became acquainted with Ms. Kupau-Odo when we were research assistants for Professor Charles R. Lawrence, III in law school. Most recently, I have had the pleasure of working with her on a large complex case. Although she had a limited period of time to review and comprehend difficult, unfamiliar issues, she was able to communicate her arguments in a clear, succinct and persuasive manner.

Ms. Kupau-Odo listens thoughtfully and considers the view of others carefully. She treats her adversaries with civility and courtesy. She has been committed to the community as a Public Defender, in her role as an attorney at Earthjustice, and as Litigation Director at Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation. Her experience reflects her ability to excel in both the criminal and civil arena.

I am confident that Ms. Kupau-Odo will evaluate all matters before her objectively, fairly, and with an open mind. I had no doubt that she will make an excellent Judge and her appointment will be of great benefit to our community and the bar.

Very Truly Yours,



Rosemarie S. J. Sam

October 22, 2018

I am writing to recommend Summer Kupau-Odo for the Hawaii District Court.

I have known Summer on a personal level for over nine years. During these years, I have witnessed Summer to possess such qualities as honesty, compassion, integrity, trustworthiness and respect, all of which I feel make her an excellent choice to become a part of the District Court system.

Interacting with Summer in our family life, she constantly impresses me with her ability to be a great listener. Watching her as a Mother to my nephew and an Aunt to my children, she has a calm patience to listen to them and make sure they know, she is listening. She is caring and loving. Summer also has a cute sense of humor that puts an easy smile on our faces. She is a delightful part of our family.

I understand that all candidates hold strong educational backgrounds and life experiences. I feel that Summer's well-rounded combination of intelligence and character traits make her a perfect candidate. I am confident Summer will be an excellent judge.

Sincerely,
Catherine Chow

TRISHA Y. NAKAMURA
P.O. Box 61619 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96839
(808) 741-3502 • trishanakamura@gmail.com

To: The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Chair
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Date: October 23, 2018

Re: JC 1; Strong Support for the Nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of Ms. Summer Kupau-Odo's nomination to the District Court of the First Circuit.

I have known Summer Kupau-Odo since 2004, when we were law students at the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Since then, we have served on the board of the Japanese American Citizens League Honolulu Chapter and worked at the Office of the Public Defender.

Summer Kupau-Odo does not want to be a judge for personal glory or ego. The person who appears before you and the Senate does not want to be a judge for personal glory or ego. Rather, the State and bench need her--and she has responded to the call to serve the public.

LOVE OF THE LAW AND SKILLED IN ITS APPLICATION

Summer has a dedication to the law that is rare. As a young Deputy Public Defender, I would often seek input from Summer. Unlike the majority of busy attorneys in the office who would share their thoughts, Summer would go above and beyond: thoughtfully reflecting on the question, sharing her analysis, and pointing to the relevant source of law. Summer will go to task when confronted by new areas of law or a new legal problem in front of her--driven by her unending passion for knowledge and fueled by her skilled research.

SELFLESS, COMPASSIONATE, AND COMMUNITY-MINDED

Summer is selfless, a quality demonstrated when she returned home to Lahaina from California to teach in the public schools and worked as a Deputy Public Defender. Having clerked for Justice Simeon Acoba and worked on criminal and civil matters, Summer understands the role of the Court and the importance the District Court plays in the community and people's lives. Summer will relate well to the parties who appear before her and exhibit grace and calm.

COMMITMENT TO THE HIGHEST ETHICAL STANDARDS AND PROFESSIONALISM

Summer exhibits the utmost professionalism in her representation of clients, arguments to the Court, and work with opposing counsel and colleagues. She has not advanced her own or her clients' interests at the expense of ethics or doing what so right.

In sum, Summer Kupau-Odo is someone who will draw from all of her perspectives as an attorney, mother, and local woman to ensure that all individuals are provided access to justice with an eye towards fair application of the law.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in strong support of the nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo to the District Court of the First Circuit.

October 23, 2018

Senate Committee on Judiciary (JDC)
c/o Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 219
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: JC 1, Testimony in Support of Nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo for Judge, District Court of the First Circuit (Island of O'ahu)

Hearing: Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 10:30 a.m., Conf. Room 224

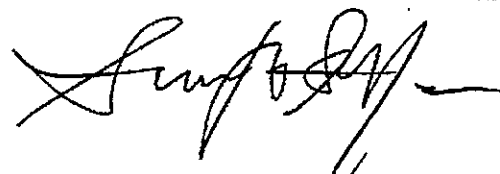
To: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair; The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair; and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

My name is Summer Sylva and I am a staff attorney at Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation, where Ms. Summer Kupau-Odo currently works as Litigation Director. She joined our non-profit law firm in May 2018, but I was well-acquainted with her personally and professionally many years before that. Based on my personal and professional relationship with Ms. Kupau-Odo, I recommend, without reservation, her nomination to fill the judicial vacancy created in the District Court of the First Circuit.

Ms. Kupau-Odo's record of achievement is exemplary. She graduated from William S. Richardson School of Law among the top in her class; racked up numerous honors; and earned a highly sought after clerkship with the Hawai'i Supreme Court. When her clerkship ended, Ms. Kupau-Odo could have worked at any law firm of her choosing, but she opted instead to join the Office of the Public Defender, committed to assuring that our community's most vulnerable and indigent are provided with effective legal counsel. During her eight years as a deputy public defender, she honed her skills as a trial and appellate attorney, never waning in her role as a dedicated public servant. Ms. Kupau-Odo expanded the breadth and scope of her advocacy when she joined Earthjustice as a Senior Associate Attorney. For the next five years, she dedicated herself to protecting Hawai'i's natural resources and defending the right of all to a healthy environment. When she joined our non-profit in May, we were beyond thrilled to embrace someone with her talent, skills, integrity, professionalism, and work ethic. Our office will be sad to lose her to the judiciary, but she possesses the highest level of integrity and competence necessary to discharge the duties of a sound, fair-minded, and independent jurist.

As a part-Hawaiian female attorney, Ms. Kupau-Odo serves as a great role model for those who seek to pursue their legal careers with purpose, distinction and, above all, a fidelity to justice and service. I have every confidence that she will be an outstanding trial judge, as she has proven herself, time and again, to be an outstanding litigator, advocate, leader, mentor, and human being.

I am so proud to support Ms. Kupau-Odo's nomination and do so without reservation.



Tom Heinrich

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 12:06 AM
To: JDCTestimony
Cc: rlee@rbscrp.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for JC1 on Oct 24, 2018 10:30AM (Written Only)

JC1

Submitted on: 10/24/2018
Testimony for on Oct 24, 2018 10:30AM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Ryan Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair; The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair; and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary Re: JC 1, Testimony in Support of Nomination of Summer Kupau-Odo Hearing: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 10:30 a.m., Conference Room 224 I fully support Summer Odo's nomination to serve as District Court Judge of the First Circuit

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Wednesday, October 24, 2018 10:30AM Room 224

Testimony in SUPPORT JC1

Nomination of SUMMER KUPAU-ODO to the District Court, First Circuit

Aloha Chairman Taniguchi and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i urges your committee to confirm Summer Kupau-Odo as a judge in the District Court of the First Circuit. Thank you for this opportunity to express our strong support for her nomination.

Throughout her entire professional career, Ms. Kupau-Odo has demonstrated a commitment to serving the public's best interest. She is an effective advocate and an accomplished practitioner of the law. For eight years, she served as a public defender, advocating for those entitled to legal representation when accused of a crime but unable to pay for professional legal services. In this role, she helped to ensure our judicial system functioned well on behalf of the innocent, as well as the guilty, as well as the victims of crime.

For five years, Ms. Kupau-Odo served as an attorney on cases focused on environmental protection and indigenous advancement at Earthjustice and the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation. In this role, she gained crucial experience in a wide variety of legal areas including trust and estates, administrative procedures, and federal and state laws related to the environment and consumer protection. As a direct result of her effective advocacy, Hawai'i's environmental and basic Native Hawaiian rights are better protected.

Ms. Kupau-Odo is also an accomplished legal scholar. She served as law clerk to Justice Simeon Acoba on the Hawai'i Supreme Court. She also served as Comments Editor on the University of Hawai'i Law Review and authored several legal articles including "Judicial Enforcement of Official Indigenous Languages: A Comparative Analysis of the Maori and Hawaiian Struggles for Cultural Language Rights."

This nominee's commitment to the public is further demonstrated by her long service to numerous local non-profit boards. She has served on the board of directors for the Japanese American Citizen League, Advocates for Public Interest Law, and Mental Health Kōkua. She was also appointed to the Judiciary's Task Force on Civil Justice Improvements. At the root of Ms. Kupau-Odo's impressive commitment to public service is her upbringing on Maui. Ms. Kupau-Odo was raised in Lāhainā and is a graduate of Lāhaināluna. She has authored books and poems about the historical significance of Lāhainā to Hawai'i and the world.

Ms. Kupau-Odo's legal career demonstrates her commitment to public service. Her legal scholarship demonstrates her well-reasoned and balanced approach to implementing Hawai'i's forward-thinking statutes. Her roots as a life-long resident of Maui demonstrate her dedication to serving the people of this land.

The Sierra Club views Ms. Kupau-Odo's confirmation to the District Court as a hopeful guiding star that will shine bright as it continues to rise for decades to come. Ms. Kupau-Odo will serve the Judiciary and the people of Hawai'i well in her role as judge.

For these reasons, we strongly support her confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. Townsend".

Marti Townsend
Chapter Director